

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



August 18, 1997

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 97-45

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP
COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: WAIVER EXPIRATION FOR THE
ABLE-BODIED ADULTS
WITHOUT DEPENDENTS
(ABAWDS) FOOD
STAMP WORK REQUIREMENT

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | State Law Change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Federal Law or Regulation
Change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Court Order or Settlement
Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Clarification Requested by
One or More Counties |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Initiated by CDSS |

REFERENCE: ALL- COUNTY LETTER 97-35 AND 97-08

This letter is to remind counties that the Food Stamp ABAWD waiver, announced in All-County Letter 97-08, expires August 31, 1997 for those counties and portions of counties listed in Columns B and C of Attachment I. In the areas where the waiver expires, counties must begin tracking ABAWDs and discontinue those who do not meet the work requirement. For non-exempt ABAWDs, the 36-month tracking period begins September 1, 1997. The first possible discontinuance date, for those who do not comply with the work requirement, is December 1, 1997.

As a reminder, all nonexempt applicants and recipients must satisfy participation requirements for 33 of every 36 months as a condition of Food Stamp eligibility. Participation requirements are fulfilled by performing one of the following:

- Working 20 hours or more per week;
- Participating in a workfare program; or
- Participating at least 20 hours per week in an allowable work activity such as a Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) component, other than job search.

The Department has submitted a request to the United States Department of Agriculture to operate a self-initiated workfare program other than the one operated as part of FSET. Please see Attachment II for a draft description of the workfare program. If our proposal receives federal approval, counties will have the option to submit a self-initiated workfare proposal for state approval. This would permit counties to provide food stamp recipients an alternative way to remain eligible for food stamps. It may also alleviate some of the administrative complexities of the program. We will advise you regarding the progress of our request.

Page Two

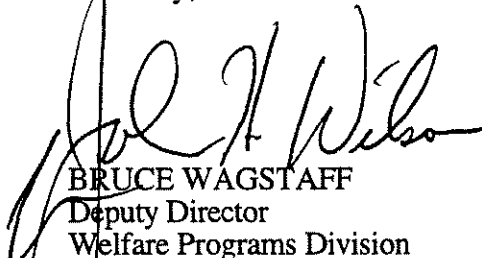
Enclosed is the Temp 2133, Important Information for Food Stamp Recipients Work Requirement. Counties must send this form to clients, as soon as possible, to remind them of the expiration dates.

Counties can obtain camera-ready copies of the English, Spanish, Cambodian, Chinese, Lao or Vietnamese versions of the Temp 2133 by calling or writing:

CDSS Forms Management Unit
744 P Street, MS 7-182
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 657-1907/ATSS 437-1907

If there are any questions, please contact your Employment Operations analyst at (916) 657-3403.

Sincerely,



BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division

Enclosure

1997 ABAWD WAIVER

	A	B	C	D
	WAIVER	FULL	PARTIAL	NO
COUNTY	ENDS	WAIVER ENDS	WAIVER ENDS	WAIVER
	3/31/98	8/31/97	8/31/97	
ALAMEDA			x	
ALPINE		x		
AMADOR		x		
BUTTE		x		
CALAVERAS	x			
COLUSA	x			
CONTRA COSTA			x	
DEL NORTE	x			
EL DORADO				x
FRESNO	x			
GLENN	x			
HUMBOLDT		x		
IMPERIAL	x			
INYO		x		
KERN	x			
KINGS	x			
LAKE	x			
LASSEN	x			
LOS ANGELES		x		
MADERA	x			
MARIN				x
MARIPOSA		x		
MENDOCINO		x		
MERCED	x			
MODOC	x			
MONO	x			
MONTEREY	x			
NAPA			x	
NEVADA		x		
ORANGE			x	
PLACER				x
PLUMAS	x			
RIVERSIDE		x		
SACRAMENTO			x	
SAN BENITO	x			
SAN BERNARDINO		x		
SAN DIEGO			x	
SAN FRANCISCO			x	
SAN JOAQUIN	x			
SAN LUIS OBISPO			x	
SAN MATEO			x	
SANTA BARBARA			x	
SANTA CLARA			x	
SANTA CRUZ		x		
SHASTA	x			
SIERRA	x			
SISKIYOU	x			
SOLANO		x		
SONOMA				x
STANISLAUS	x			
SUTTER	x			
TEHAMA	x			
TRINITY	x			
TULARE	x			
TUOLUMNE	x			
VENTURA		x		
YOLO			x	
YUBA	x			
TOTAL	28	14	12	4

8/7/97

tp/desktop/97waiver

SELF-INITIATED WORKFARE

This self-initiated workfare program would permit the counties to provide food stamp recipients who are able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) an alternative way to remain eligible for food stamps. The self-initiated workfare program will conform with the requirements established in section 20 of the Food Stamp Act, regulations at 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 273.22, and Administrative Notices 97-40 and 97-58.

- Individuals would be responsible for finding a public service placement in public or private nonprofit agencies that would meet the hourly requirement. They would also be responsible for documenting their hours of participation.
- ABAWDs in self-initiated workfare would be required to participate at least 20 hours per month. This requirement is roughly based on the average allotment for an ABAWD case of \$120 per month. Counties would be permitted to require participation for more than 20 hours per month, but under no circumstances would any individual participate more than 120 hours per month (30 hours per week).
- A county would not be required to apply workfare sanctions to individuals who did not comply with the terms of their self-initiated activity. However, non-compliance with the ABAWD work requirement could subject an individual to disqualification from food stamps.
- Verification of participation in self-initiated workfare activities will be accomplished in the same manner as other ABAWD activities. Counties will maintain records to support the issuance of benefits beyond the third month.
- Reimbursement of transportation costs would not be required.
- Work protections would not be required.
- Costs incurred for any tracking or administrative costs could be claimed to available funds in the county's food stamp administrative allocation or from the county's Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) allocation.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS WORK REQUIREMENT

Starting September 1, 1997, you may be required to meet a new Food Stamp work rule to keep your Food Stamps. Your Food Stamps will stop if there are 3 months during a 36-month period when you do not do a Food Stamp work activity, unless you are excused for one of the reasons listed below. This means the soonest your Food Stamps could stop would be December 1, 1997.

How Can I Be Excused from Food Stamp Work Requirements?

You can be excused from the requirements if you are:

- A parent or other household member with a dependent child;
- Younger than 18 or over 50 years of age;
- Not able to work due to physical or mental health problems;
- Pregnant;
- Participating in California's Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) program;
- Responsible for care of an incapacitated person;
- Receiving unemployment compensation, or you have applied for unemployment compensation but have not begun to receive it;
- Participating on a regular basis in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program;
- A half-time student who meets certain eligibility requirements.

What Are The Food Stamp Work Activities?

The activities are:

- Work 20 hours or more per week in paid employment; or
- Participate in a food stamp workfare project for the required number of hours; or
- Participate in an employment or training activity required by the county for at least 20 hours per week. Job search assignments do not count toward meeting the new work rule.

How Can I Regain Eligibility?

If your Food Stamps stop because of this new rule, you can become eligible again if you do a food stamp workfare activity, or if you work or participate in an approved work program at least 80 hours in a 30-day period. Even if this work stops, you can get Food Stamps again for up to 3 months in a row, starting when you tell the county that you have stopped working.

Are There Other Penalties Which Apply?

Even if you are still eligible for Food Stamps under the rule described above, your Food Stamps may still stop if you do not participate in certain employment and training assignments, including workfare, quit a job, or reduce the number of hours you work to less than 30 per week.